

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LJUBLJANA "KOMMUNIST" TAKES EXCEPTION TO FRIEDMAN'S
STOCKHOLM REMARKS ON FREEDOM

1. UNDER HEADLINE "WORRIED APOSTLE, ARDENT ADVOCATE OF
CAPITALISM, FRIEDMAN, IS MISTAKEN IF HE THINKS HE IMPROVES HIS
REPUTATION WITH STATEMENTS SUCH AS 'SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA WITH
REGARD TO POLITICAL FREEDOM OF ITS CITIZENS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN IN
CHILE'" LJUBLJANA "KOMMUNIST" FOR DECEMBER 20 CARRIES LENGTHY
ARTICLE (ALSO REPRINTED IN DECEMBER 21 "DELO") BY TONE KRASOVEC
MEMBER OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LC OF SLOVENIA, ATTACKING MILTON
FRIEDMAN FOR REMARKS MADE TO THE PRESS RECENTLY IN SWEDEN.

2. FRIEDMAN IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID ON SWEDISH TELEVISION
AND TO "DAGENS NYHETER" WHEN IN STOCKHOLM FOR THE NOBEL PRIZE
AWARD CEREMONY, "YUGOSLAVIA, WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL AND OTHER
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FREEDOMS FOR ITS CITIZENS, DOES NOT DIFFER FROM CHILE . . . I
WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE NATIONAL BANK OF YUGOSLAVIA. I HAVE
TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION, BRAZIL AND CHILE. I DON'T
LIKE THE REGIMES IN ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, BE THEY COMMUNIST
OR DICTATORIAL . . . (BUT) IT IS MY OPINION THAT IT IS NOT
IMMORAL TO STUDY THE EXPERIENCES OF THESE COUNTRIES OR TO GIVE
THEM ADVICE WHEN THE PROTECTION OF FREEDOM AND LIVING CONDITIONS
OF THE CITIZENS ARE AT STAKE."

3. KRASOVEC ANALYZES AND TAKES ISSUE WITH FRIEDMAN'S "EXPERTISE"
ON SEVERAL GROUNDS. A VISIT OF SEVERAL DAYS FOR TALKS AND

LECTURES, HE WRITES, IS A RATHER MODEST BASIS FOR CLAIMING TO HAVE BEEN "AN ADVISOR TO THE NATIONAL BANK IN A SOCIALIST COUNTRY." "THEN," HE ASKS, "WOULD IT NOT BE INTERESTING TO KNOW ON WHAT BASIS FRIEDMAN DID FORM SUCH AN OPINION ABOUT OUR SOCIALIST COUNTRY? WAS IT FROM THE CONSERVATIVE WESTERN PRESS? FROM EMIGRES OR FROM TEMPORARY VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES?" "THE WHOLE WORLD," HE CONTINUES, "KNOWS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S SELF-MANAGING SYSTEM AND THE HUMANE PATH OF PROGRESS ADOPTED IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH DAY BY DAY MOST CONVINCINGLY AFFIRMS THE LIBERATION OF MAN AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF A REAL MANAGEMENT ROLE FOR THE WORKERS." ALL OF THIS BEING SELF-EVIDENT, KRASOVEC DECIDES THAT ANYONE PRESUMING THERE IS A NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE STATUS OF FREEDOM IN YUGOSLAVIA EITHER IS COMPLETELY MISINFORMED OR IS INTENT UPON DELIBERATE SLANDER.

4. FOR FRIEDMAN, AS A SCHOLAR AND INTELLECTUAL, THE FIRST POSSIBILITY SEEMS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE; THEREFORE THE SECOND HAS TO BE BELIEVED. THE AUTHOR NOTES HOWEVER, "IT IS HARDLY WORTHWHILE TO PICK UP MY PEN" TO COMMENT ONLY ON FRIEDMAN'S FEELINGS TOWARD THE YUGOSLAV SOCIAL SYSTEM. WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON IS THE COROLLARY TO FRIEDMAN'S DICTUM. FRIEDMAN MAY SAY, "IT IS NOT IMMORAL TO GIVE ADVICE (WHATEVER THE COLOR OF THE GOVERNMENT)," BUT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR ALL PEOPLE AND COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD TO ASK IS, "IS IT MORAL TO ACCEPT FRIEDMAN'S ADVICE?"

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5. COMMENT: THUS FAR, ONLY READERS OF THE SLOVENE LANGUAGE HAVE HAD THE BENEFIT OF THIS DEFENSE OF FREEDOM--YUGOSLAV STYLE, BUT LIKE A NUMBER OF OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS, "EKONOMOMSKA POLITIKA", IN THE DECEMBER 20 ISSUE, TCRITICIZES FRIEDMAN'S GENERAL APPROACH TO ECONOMICS, HIS SELECTION FOR A NOBEL PRIZE, HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CHILEAN JUNTA AND THE FAILURE OF CHILE TO RESOLVE ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS USING FRIEDMAN'S ADVICE, BUT MAKES NO MENTION OF THE STOCKHOLM STATEMENTS.

6. BELGRADE COMMENT: CHILE-YUGOSLAVIA CONNECTION PARTICULARLY INTERESTING NOW IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE TO CHILE-USSR LINKAGE IN CORVALAN-BUKOVSKI CASE. "NIN" DEC 26 ISSUE CITES BRITISH CP "MORNING STAR" REGRETS THAT THIS EXCHANGE HAS STRENGTHENED THOSE WHO ARGUE SOCIALIST AND FASCIST POWER BASED ON SAME THING -- NEGATION OF DEMOCRACY. "NIN" FOREIGN EDITOR TOLD US IN ADVANCE HE EXPECTED BE CRITICIZED BY CERTAIN FORCES INSIDE YUGOSLAVIA FOR HIS DEFENSE OF BUKOVSKI AND TREATMENT OF SOVIETS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS. FACT IS YUGOSLAVIA HAS MANY OF ITS OWN POLITICAL PRISONERS AND ARE NERVOUS ON EVE OF CSCE AS THEIR REACTION TO FRIEDMAN REMARKS DEMONSTRATES.
KAISER

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